

Options Appraisal – Portfolio Gateway Assurance Arrangements

The PoMO has undertaken an options appraisal to identify the preferred way forward in the development of independent assurance arrangements for the SBCD Portfolio. The assessment is based on the need to develop assurance arrangements across the following levels within the Portfolio which are aligned to best practice, are proportionate, practicable and fit for purpose.

Level
Portfolio (1)
Headline Programmes and Projects (9)
Projects and Workstreams (35)

The following options have been assessed:

Option 1 – external Gateway Assurance at Level 1 and 2, no assurance arrangement for Level 3

Option 2 – external Gateway Assurance at Level 1-3

Option 3 – external Gateway Assurance for Level 1 and 2, internal (regional) assurance for Level 3

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Compliance	Approach not fully compliant with BBC guidance and P3M best practice for major projects in Tier 3. Lack of adequate assurance for project delivery at this level	Compliant with BBC Guidance and WG Assurance advice	Compliant with BBC Guidance and WG Assurance advice
Cost	Within expected and acceptable cost parameters per programme / project	Potential for excessive costs due to number and complexity of programmes and projects	Within expected and acceptable cost parameters per programme / project
Resource	Within expected and acceptable resource parameters per programme / project	Significant additional resource requirements for partner organisations, PoMO and WG assurance community in the organisation, management and undertaking of Reviews and in the participation of stakeholders at senior level	Additional resource requirements for PoMO, partner organisations and WG in the organisation and management of Reviews. Less demand on stakeholders for participation at a senior level
Deliverability	Practical for Reviews to be timed to coincide with key decision points in programme / project delivery	High number of formal external Reviews presenting practicality issues in scheduling and undertaking Reviews	Practical and flexible approach for Reviews to be scheduled and undertaken to coincide with key decision points in programme / project delivery
Risk	Potential for delivery issues and shortcomings not to be identified or addressed at a Level 3 project level. Greater risk to the successful delivery of a project and the realisation of benefits	Approach would provide assurance at all levels of the Portfolio. Increased likelihood of successful delivery of a project and the realisation of benefits	Approach would provide assurance at all levels of the Portfolio. Increased likelihood of successful delivery of a project and the realisation of benefits
Dependencies	Approval of approach by SBCD JC and PB; programme / project board; UKG and WG. Acceptance by SROs lack of independent assurance at Level 3	Approval of approach by SBCD JC and PB; programme / project board; UKG and WG Acceptance by SROs for implementation at Level 3	Approval of approach by SBCD JC and PB; programme / project board; UKG and WG Acceptance by SROs for implementation at Level 3 Level

			Participation of partner organisations and establishment of a resourced Assurance Hub for SBCD Training and support provided by WG Hub PoMO provide time and resource to develop and implement Assurance Resource
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Based on an assessment of the option against the criteria, the preferred option is:

Option 3 – external Gateway Assurance for Level 1 and 2, internal (regional) assurance for Level 3

This option is supported by WG Assurance Hub and will form the basis for the further development of the SBCD Assurance Framework.